

2 OCT 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

24 September 1963

DCI/WE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Attached Memorandum on Soviet Ground Forces

1. As you know, the question of Soviet ground forces -- their size and capabilities -- is of increasing intelligence importance (and public importance, see Washington Post, 23 September 1963, page A9). A joint CIA/DIA working group has just published the first part of its report on the subject, and a National Intelligence Estimate on the matter is scheduled to come before USIB in September.

2. The attached memorandum puts forth some new ideas on the subject. The Board of National Estimates found this paper to be exceptionally stimulating as an introduction to the peculiarities of Soviet force structure which can make analogies to the US quite misleading. Because of the forthcoming NIE, the Board did not attempt formal coordination of the paper, and it does not recommend dissemination outside

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the Agency. But it did recommend that I pass the paper on to you as useful background information on this topic. The eleven-line summary on the front page capsules the most important ideas.

3. The author of the paper is [REDACTED] who is assigned to our East European Staff for a year's duty after several years in the Estimates Staff of ACSI.

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SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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